January 20, 1976

whether you want to proceed with it or bracket it but we are going to do something with those bills, then, this morning. The Chair would also like to remind you to get in any bills that you have for introduction at this time. Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body, LB 148 is a bill dealing with transportation of handicapped children. You will recall that this bill was introduced last session. We discussed it. We adopted the Committee amendment and then we just left it set on General File because of the fiscal impact of the bill, and if you will look at your bill book, the fiscal impact of LB 148 would be very close to a half million dollars. And the purpose of the bill, frankly, is to correct a problem that was overlooked when we originally passed transporhandicapped. We left out two categories What the bill would do would be just tation for the handicapped. of youngsters. strike all the individual categories of youngsters and just say, literally, the transportation of handicapped children with two exceptions. The Committee amendment says, in essense, except those handicapped children receiving special educational services for educable mentally handicapped or speech therapy. Those would not be included. The reason for that is that there is extremely large numbers, number one, of the educable mentally handicapped but they don't really need to go to a different school to get the program for educable mentally handicapped. programs can be done in the regular school. Speech therapy is the same way. Now in some parts of the state, speech therapy would only be given in one particular school, for example, and it might work a hardship on some of those kids to have to be transported some other way but they would not, I repeat, would not be covered by this bill, educable mentally handicapped or speech therapy. rest of the handicapped childrens categories would all be lumped together and it would just refer to handicapped children with those two exceptions. As I mentioned, the Committee amendment has been adopted. We are ready to I move the advancement of the bill. advance the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Shirley Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President and Senator Goodrich, I am wondering if this is strictly an Omaha bill. There were many people who appeared at the public hearing but they all, according to our bill book, are from Omaha. Is this where the problem really exist and does not exist in outstate Nebraska where people travel great distances but the problem exists purely in Omaha.

SENATOR GOODRICH: No, Shirley, you have got handicapped children here in...

SENATOR MARSH: My name is Senator Marsh, Mr., Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: What was that?

SENATOR MARSH: My name is Senator Marsh, Senator Goodrich.